300 Northern country.

674 The difficult housing conditions no doubt have
548 had a share in the general loosening of morals following the war years, but there has been no special increase in juvenile delinquency, except for the young girls who drifted to Helsinki and the bigger cities to find adventure, started out doing domestic work, and sometimes ended up as prostitutes. Public officials, the Church and several organizations do much work among these "people of the streets."

•733 The greatest social problem in Finland before and after the war has been alcoholism. The annual consumption of alcohol in Finland is among the smallest in the world, but this figure is misleading, since much consumption is in the form of hard liquors. Moreover, the percentages for both those totally abstaining and those

indulging in excessive drinking are high in Finland. The war caused an increase in the consumption of alcohol, as shown in the table below:

Consumption per head of 100 per cent alcohol:

1938	1. 43 litres
1943	1. 28 litres
1946	1. 90 litres
1948	1. 76 litres

As everywhere in the Northern countries, much public and voluntary work is done to improve social conditions. The central office for social administration is the Ministry for Social Affairs, which is divided into five departments: general, labor, insurance, welfare, and temperance and liquor trade. The general department contains, e. g., a Social Research Office, a Housing Office, an Office for Family Allowances and Marriage Loans, and a Population Office.

736 health. Such a child is placed in an approved private home or a children's home and handicapped children are sent to the proper institutions. For the care of mentally deficient children there are two institutes maintained by the Government, one municipal (city or Helsinki), one owned by a coalition of communes, and 3 maintained by private societies. In 1948 there
738 were 791 children in these institutions. For difficult and delinquent children there are reformatories, including homes and schools--a total of 23 altogether. In 1948 the number of inmates was 1666.

●733 Asocial members of the community are treated in both public and private institutions. Vagabonds who are considered to be dangerous to themselves or others are put into workhouses and chronic drunkards, who refuse voluntary

753 treatments, are after repeated warnings and investigation placed in the proper institutions. In 1947 welfare measure were taken in regard to 5921 chronic drunkards, 5330 of whom were men and 591 women. Altogether 816 received treatment in institutions.

747 794 Voluntary relief work is very important. The Church is represented in different fields of social welfare through various organizations. Its central organ is the Home Mission Society of the Finnish Church, which maintains, among others, training institutes for deaconesses; a training college for matrons of children's homes, a home for epileptics and a home for imbecilic children. Another welfare organization in the Church is the Finnish Seamen's Mission, which does relief work on a large scale among Finnish sailors and emigrants in foreign countries. In